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## LESSON 7

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### CRISIS ACTION PLANNING

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#### Introduction

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<b>Purpose</b>	<p>This lesson focuses on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The crisis action planning (CAP) process</li><li>• The products outlined under the guidance of current joint doctrine and the Joint Operation Planning and Execution System (JOPES) publications</li></ul>
<b>Importance of the Study</b>	<p>Characteristics of CAP are listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Based on current events</li><li>• Conducted in time-sensitive crisis situations</li><li>• Allows the U.S. to quickly apply its national power to attain strategic objectives in support of national security strategy</li><li>• Parallels deliberate planning</li><li>• Responds to changing events</li><li>• Enables the Commander in Chief to modify an existing CONPLAN (contingency plan) or OPLAN (operation plan) or to develop a campaign plan if no plan exist</li></ul>
<b>Relationship to Other Lessons</b>	<p>This lesson links directly with lesson 6, which covered the deliberate planning process. In addition, this lesson sets the stage for the study of campaign planning at the operational level of war, when CAP is most widely used.</p>
<b>Study Time</b>	<p>This lesson, including the issues for consideration, will require about 2.5 hours of study.</p>

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#### Background

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**Historical Example**

On 2 August 1990, Iraq invaded Kuwait. Within hours, U.S. Naval forces responded to that crisis. That same morning, the Commander-in-Chief, United States Central Command (USCINCCENT), briefed the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS) on available military options.

One option involved deployment of forces according to the Commander-in-Chief's (CINC's) Strategic Concept for OPLAN 1002-90, a deliberate plan in-the-making. In response to the situation, USCINCCENT modified existing deliberate planning and began immediate execution planning.

The initial order deploying U.S. forces came on 6 August 1990, four days after the invasion. During that time, USCINCCENT and the rest of the Joint Planning and Execution Community had used the crisis action planning process to plan and execute Operation *Desert Shield*.

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**DoD Definition of Crisis**

The DoD definition of crisis is an incident or situation involving a threat to the U.S., its territories, citizens, military forces, possessions, or vital interests that develops rapidly and creates a condition of such diplomatic, economic, political, or military importance that commitment of U.S. military forces and resources is contemplated to achieve national objectives.

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**DoD Definitions of Crisis Action Planning (CAP)**

The Joint Operation Planning and Execution System process involves the time-sensitive development of joint operation plans and orders in response to an imminent crisis. Below are two definitions of DoD Crisis Action Planning (CAP):

- *Crisis action planning (CAP)* follows prescribed crisis action procedures to formulate and implement an effective response within the time frame permitted by the crisis.
  - *Crisis action planning (CAP)* is time-sensitive planning for deploying, employing, and sustaining assigned and allocated forces and resources that occurs in response to a situation that may result in actual military operations. Crisis action planners base their plan on the circumstances that exist at the time of planning.
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## Background, Continued

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### **From Deliberate Plans To Crisis Action Plans**

In many cases, previously completed deliberate plans translate directly into crisis action plans and execution.

Like deliberate planning, CAP is a structured process used to formulate and implement an effective response within the time frame permitted by the crisis.

Unlike the deliberate planning process, the CAP process is designed to produce executable operation orders or campaign plans in a time-sensitive environment to respond to imminent contingencies.

CAP demands flexibility and the use of previously developed deliberate plans whenever possible, as demonstrated by USCINCCENT in the historical example above.

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## Educational Objectives

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<b>Joint Doctrine</b>	Comprehend crisis action planning (CAP) as done under current joint doctrine in terms of the processes of the Joint Operation Planning and Execution System. [JPME Area 2a]
<b>Effects on Planning Process</b>	Comprehend the effects of time, coordination, policy changes, and political development from the crisis action planning processes to the final operational orders. [JPME Area 4b]
<b>Effects on Joint Operational Planning</b>	Explain how the defense planning system affects joint operational planning. [JPME Area 4c]
<b>JPME Areas/ Objectives/Hours (accounting data)</b>	2/a/.5 4/b/.5 4/c/.5

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## Required Readings

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### *Joint Pub Readings*

- Joint Pub 5-0, *Doctrine For Planning Joint Operations* (1995). Read Chapter III, pp. III-9 through III-15. Find this reading in the *Joint Pub Readings* Vol. III (8800), pp. 1024 to 1030. This selection describes how the crisis action planning (CAP) process is used to plan and execute joint operations during a crisis situation.
  - Joint Pub 5-03.1, *Joint Operation Planning and Execution System (Planning, Policies and Procedures)* (1993). Read Vol I, Chapter V. Find this reading in the *Joint Pub Readings* Vol. III (8800), pp. 1121 to 1140. This reading describes in detail the CAP PROCESS and how the process is used to plan and execute joint operations in a crisis situation.
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## Issues for Consideration

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### **CAP and the Deliberate Planning Process**

Compare and contrast the crisis action planning process and the deliberate planning processes.

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### **JPEC During CAP**

Describe the activities of the JPEC during crisis action planning.

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### **Purpose of CJCS Orders To CINC**

Examine the purpose of each of the following orders the CJCS may issue to a CINC:

- CJCS Warning Order
  - CJCS Planning Order
  - CJCS Alert Order
  - CJCS Execute Order
  - CJCS Deployment Order
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